

Budget & Fiscal Planning

1. **Given that Medicaid HCBS services are funded through a 50/50 federal-state cost share, how is your administration preparing for a potential federal cut of 11%, which would translate into a 22% total loss in available funding unless NH fills the gap?**
(Context: If federal cuts happen to the tune of \$880 billion as proposed by the US House GOP in its directives to the Energy & Commerce Committee, NH may need to increase state spending to maintain current levels of service. What budgetary strategies are being considered?)
2. **Have you directed the NH's State Office of Medicaid (or anywhere in NH DHHS) to conduct fiscal impact modeling to determine the specific budget shortfalls NH would face under various Medicaid cut scenarios? If so, can you share those findings?**
(Context: Data-driven analysis is critical for determining the actual impact on NH's finances and service availability.)
3. **If federal Medicaid funding is cut, will you commit to using state surplus funds, rainy day reserves, or other revenue sources to prevent service reductions or waiting lists for HCBS waiver programs?**

Legislative & Policy Planning

4. **Have you discussed potential Medicaid cuts with the NH Legislature or any of its committees, i.e the Joint Fiscal Committee? What is your plan for ensuring bipartisan support for additional state funding if needed?**
(Context: The NH House and Senate will need to act quickly if Medicaid funding is reduced.)
5. **What contingencies is your administration considering to ensure Medicaid HCBS waiver services remain fully funded if NH is forced to absorb a larger share of costs? Would you support state revenue increases or reallocations to maintain funding levels?**
(Context: If NH doesn't increase funding, services will be reduced. What's the strategy?)
6. **In previous budget cycles, states facing Medicaid cuts have turned to provider rate reductions, service limitations, or eligibility restrictions. Will you commit to avoiding these measures, and if not, what criteria would guide your decisions?**
(Context: HCBS services already face workforce shortages and underfunding. Cutting reimbursement rates could worsen access.)

Federal Advocacy & Response

7. **What direct advocacy are you undertaking with New Hampshire's congressional delegation to oppose Medicaid cuts? Have you engaged with the Trump**

administration or House GOP leadership on NH's specific concerns?

(Context: As governor, Ayotte has influence in Washington. Is she using it to protect Medicaid?)

8. **If federal Medicaid cuts are approved, will you support or participate in a coalition of governors advocating for alternatives or exemptions for states reliant on HCBS funding?**
(Context: Governors have banded together in the past to push back on federal cuts.)
9. **Given that Medicaid HCBS cuts would have significant economic repercussions for New Hampshire—potentially costing the state millions in lost federal funding, reducing healthcare jobs, and increasing financial strain on families—have you conveyed these concerns to the Trump administration? If so, what response have you received?**
10. **As governor, you have a direct line to the White House and federal agencies. Have you advocated against Medicaid HCBS cuts by presenting data on how they would negatively impact New Hampshire's economy, workforce, and healthcare system? If not, why?**
11. **Given that New Hampshire's economic stability relies on federal Medicaid funding, have you urged the Trump administration to reconsider these cuts in light of their projected negative effects on state finances and job growth? If so, what commitments, if any, have been made?**
12. **If the Trump administration proceeds with Medicaid cuts despite their negative impact on New Hampshire's economy, what is your plan for pushing back to protect the state's financial well-being and essential services?**

Impact on Families, Providers & Workforce

Medicaid HCBS waivers support thousands of NH residents, including children with disabilities, older adults, and individuals with complex medical needs. How will you ensure these vulnerable populations do not experience service disruptions due to budget constraints?

(Context: Families rely on these services to keep loved ones at home, for parents to be employed, for people with disabilities to be employed and for everyone to have access to the American Dream.)

9. **Given that NH already struggles with workforce shortages in home- and community-based services, how would potential Medicaid cuts impact provider reimbursement rates and the ability to recruit and retain caregivers?**
(Context: Lower Medicaid reimbursement could worsen NH's existing direct-care workforce crisis.)
10. **Families across NH are already stretched thin balancing work and caregiving responsibilities. If state funding does not fully replace lost federal dollars, how do you plan to prevent families from being forced to quit jobs to provide care at home?**
(Context: An underfunded system leads to families bearing the burden.)

11. **Medicaid HCBS funding plays a crucial role in reducing reliance on costly institutional care. Have you conducted an analysis of the potential cost shift to nursing homes, hospitals, and emergency services if HCBS cuts lead to increased institutionalization?**

(Context: Cutting HCBS often results in higher long-term costs elsewhere in the healthcare system.)

Commitment to NH's Long-Term Medicaid Stability

13. **Do you believe that funding Medicaid HCBS services should be a long-term budget priority for NH, regardless of federal cuts? If so, how do you propose to ensure stability in funding for these services?**

(Context: A firm commitment to long-term solutions is necessary to prevent recurring crises.)

14. **Would you support establishing a dedicated state Medicaid reserve fund to cushion against unexpected federal cuts and economic downturns that could impact HCBS waiver funding?**

(Context: Some states have created special funds to stabilize Medicaid funding during federal uncertainty.)

Accountability & Transparency

15. **How will your administration ensure transparency and public input in decisions related to potential Medicaid funding reductions? Will you commit to public hearings and stakeholder engagement before making any policy changes?**

(Context: Families, providers, and advocates should have a voice in funding decisions.)